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ABSTRACT

This KIDS COUNT statistical report is the third to present information on the status of children and youth in the District of Columbia. An Executive Summary presents the overall findings, while the bulk of the report presents trends in seven areas: (1) economic security; (2) family attachment and community support; (3) child day care; (4) homeless children and families; (5) health; (6) safety and personal security; and (7) education. Findings indicate that about half of D.C. children derive their sole support from Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The unemployment rate for young African American adults is almost 30 percent. About 60 percent of children are in father-absent families, with almost 70 percent born to unwed mothers and almost 16 percent born to teenage mothers. Less than half of D.C. mothers receive adequate prenatal care, and the infant mortality rate is higher than twice the national rate. Teen violent death rates have declined in the past year and there are fewer child abuse cases filed than there were five years ago. The longer children remain in the D.C. public school system, the poorer their academic performance, with a graduation rate of about 53 percent. The report also includes discussions of general population trends affecting the district's children, comparisons among the district's wards, and recommendations to improve outcomes for the district's children. (KDFB)

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EVERY KID COUNTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: 3RD ANNUAL FACTBOOK

PS 025029

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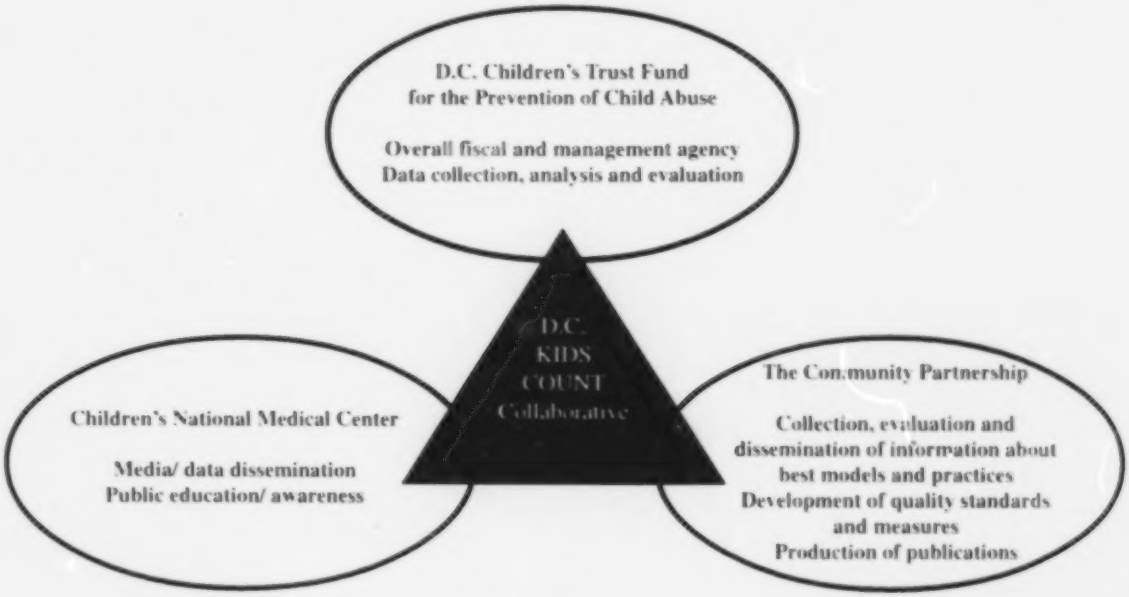
The D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative for Children and Families is a unique alliance of public and private organizations using research to support advocacy for change in human, social and economic policies and practices of government, the private sector, families, neighborhoods and individuals. Its mission is to fight for the interests and well-being of children and families and to ensure their healthy development and future in the District of Columbia. An organizing goal of the collaborative is to build a strong and serious child and family support movement in the nation's capital.

Since the formation in 1990 of the Collaborative's predecessor organization, the Coalition for Children and Families, over 80 individuals and organizations representing a broad and diverse group of advocates, service providers, government policy makers, universities, fraternal and volunteer organizations, and local citizens have been a part of the group.

The Collaborative supports a comprehensive approach to community building but is focusing its research and advocacy efforts on family attachment and community support, economic security, health, education, and safety and security.


D.C. Children's Trust Fund
for the Prevention of Child Abuse
Overall fiscal and management agency
Data collection, analysis and evaluation
D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative
Children's National Medical Center
Media/ data dissemination
Public education/ awareness
The Community Partnership
Collection, evaluation and dissemination of information about best models and practices
Development of quality standards and measures
Production of publications

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EVERY KID COUNTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: 3RD ANNUAL FACTBOOK

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PURPOSE OF THIS FACTBOOK

This is the third annual report produced by D.C. Kids Count Collaborative on the lives of children in the District. The purpose of these annual reports is not to only to bring to light the inadequate services for children that exist in the District, but to personalize the statistics we read about every day. We must help our readers understand that this is not a problem faced by "other people," but a series of issues that we all must work together to address. As adults it is our responsibility to act on behalf of our children — including those in our family and those in our community —because they do not possess the power to act on their own behalf. For the District to survive in the future, we must come together to provide the best possible academic, social, and economic environments for the children that are our future.

This fact book provides a third-year broad view of the status of children and youth in the District of Columbia. The indicators reported are based upon those developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Center for the Study of Social Policy as part of a national effort to track the status of children in the United States. The D.C. Kids Count Factbook has expanded to also report on other indicators relevant to the District.

As in the first and second annual Fact Books, we continue to stress the importance of family and community in the lives of our children. The indicators in this report are grouped and are reported in the context of family and community. We believe that for real change to occur, we must understand the relationships and interactions between children, their families, and their community as a whole. If something is negatively impacting an entire community or family, the lives of all of the children in that family or community are affected.

We hope that this report, in conjunction with the 1994 and 1995 Factbooks, will be used as a tool for community leaders in strategic planning and policy decisions affecting children in the District. We also hope that it will serve to open up discussions among service providers, business leaders, local government and community members concerning the issues brought to light in these reports, and how we, as a community, can begin to deal with them in a productive way.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year's statistics concerning the well-being of the District's children are compiled from 1994 and 1995 data, making this report one of the most current sources of these indicators available. Although this report shows that a number of indicators -- including the number of teenage mothers, the number of child neglect cases, and the number of violent deaths to teenagers -- have improved in the District, policy changes on a national level will make it difficult to sustain these improvements.

The welfare reform legislation passed by the 104th Congress will radically change the lives of poor children and their families throughout the country, with a potentially devastating impact in the District of Columbia. At the time of publication, the future of the District's children under this welfare reform legislation is unknown, but we remain hopeful that our local and national leaders will recognize and correct the hazards posed to our children by cuts in benefits to legal immigrants, reductions in AFDC, Food Stamps and Medicaid, the ending of child care entitlements, and other major changes in the current system. The Children's Defense Fund estimates that 5,510 children in the District of Columbia will become poor under this new law.

The following are some of the facts revealed in the 1994 and 1995 data for the District of Columbia.

Economic Security

- Over 50,000 children in D.C. — about half of the child population — derive their sole support from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

- The unemployment rate for young African American adults — parents of young children — in D.C. is 28.4%, more than triple the unemployment rate for the District's population as a whole.

Family Attachment and Community Support

- Six in ten D.C. children are in families where the father is absent.

- 69% of D.C. children are born to unwed mothers.

- 15.6% of children born in D.C. are born to teenage moms — the lowest level since 1992.

- Child neglect cases — 1,323 in 1995 — are down 12.5% from 1994.

Child Care

- The District has lost approximately 100 child care providers over the last year.

Health

- Fewer than half of D.C. mothers receive adequate prenatal care.

- The infant mortality rate for the District — 18.2 deaths per thousand live births — is more than twice that of the nation as a whole.

Safety and Personal Security

- Violent deaths to teens in D.C. have declined from last year's high of 106 to 88, 76 of which were due to homicide or legal intervention.

- Juvenile cases in D.C. Superior Court are at an 11-year low at 3,931 cases.

- 189 child abuse cases were filed in 1995 — 36% of the number of cases filed in 1990.

- The most frequent victims of abuse and neglect are children under the age of 1 year.

Education

- Trends show that the longer children remain in the D.C. Public School System, the more poorly they perform.

- In third grade, students test at or above the national average, while students in 11th grade perform well below the national average.

- The graduation rate for high schoolers in D.C. public schools is 53%.

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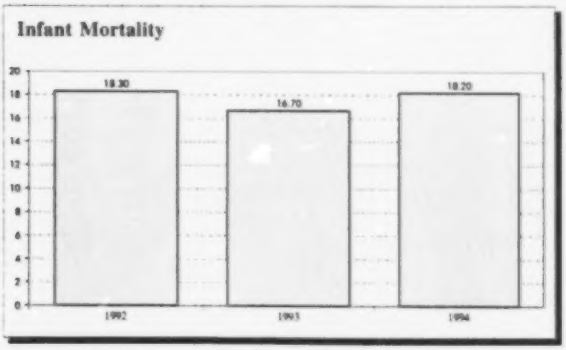
I. CHANGES IN THE LIVES OF D.C.'S CHILDREN SINCE OUR LAST REPORT

Since the release of the 1995 D.C. Kids Count Annual Fact Book, a number of indicators of children's well-being have changed for the better. Although this is positive news, there is still no cause for rejoicing. The number of children in crisis remain far too high in the District, and the implementation of the new welfare law could push those numbers higher. There is still much work which needs to be accomplished in order to sustain the current improvements into the uncertain future.

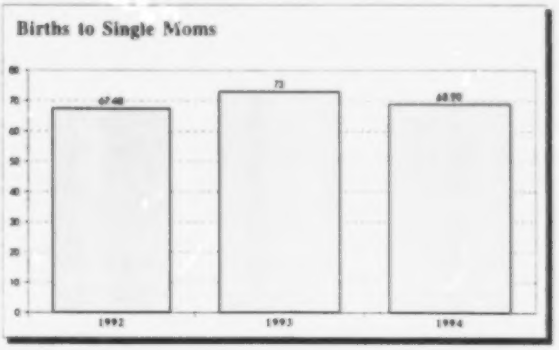
This year's Fact Book represents data from 1994 and 1995, while the recently released national Kids Count Data Book represents data from 1993. Variations in data between the national and local reports may also be caused by differences in data collection methods. (The source for data in the national report is the National Center for Health Statistics, and the sources for this report are D.C. Government agencies.) Also, the D.C. Fact Book presents data on several different indicators than does the national Data Book.

Since our last report:

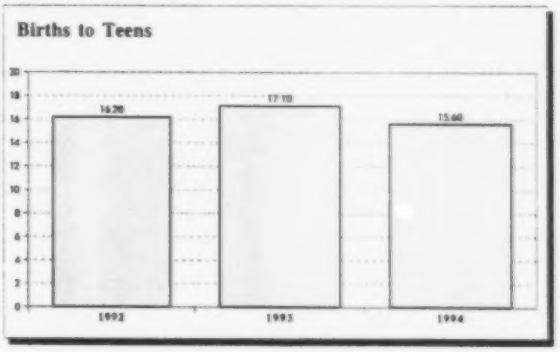
♦ The infant mortality rate, which had dropped sharply in 1993, rose again in 1994 to nearly its 1992 level and stands at 18.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Last year, this was one of very few indicators on which the District had shown improvement two years in a row.



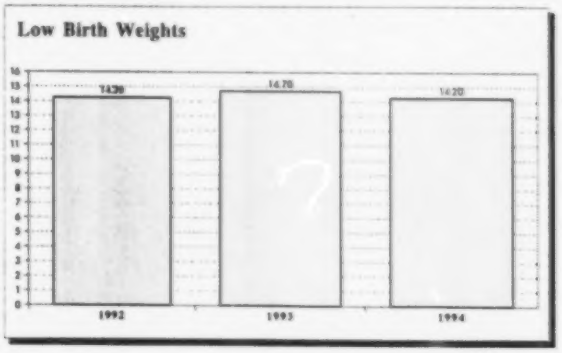
♦ The percentage of all births that are to single mothers, which had risen sharply in 1993, declined in 1994. Still, it remains well above its 1992 level at 69 percent — almost seven in ten D.C. births to single women.



♦ The percentage of all births that are to teenage mothers also declined in 1994, falling to 15.6 percent — somewhat below its 1992 level. Still, almost one D.C. birth in six is to a mother under 20 years of age.



♦ The percentage of infants born with low birth weights (below 5 1/2 pounds) decreased to 14.2 percent in 1994 — the same level as in 1992. Therefore, one baby in every seven born in D.C. has a low birth weight



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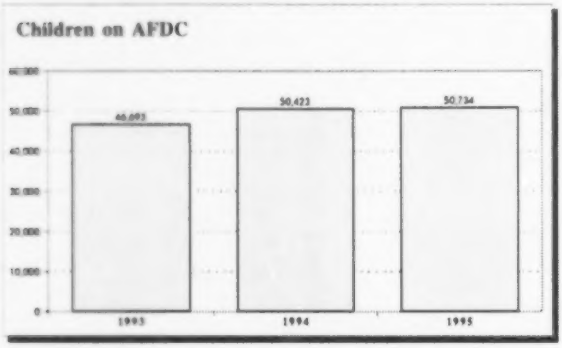
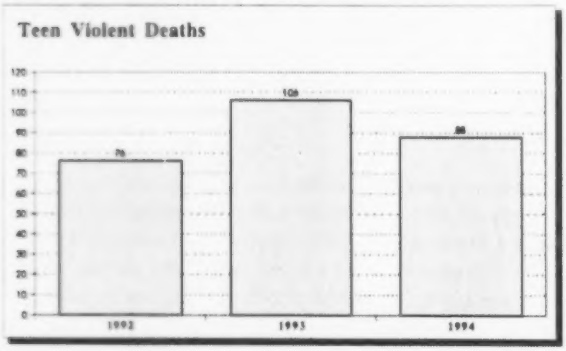
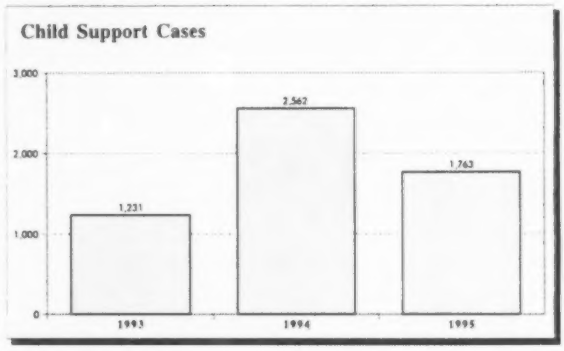
♦ The number of children in families who receive AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) rose again in 1995, but by a much smaller amount than in 1994 — an increase of 311children versus 3,730 children the preceding year. This could be due in part to more stringent restrictions on eligibility for families applying for AFDC, although these restrictions have not completely stopped the rise. With the new welfare legislation, it is clear that these numbers will continue to decrease.



♦ Violent deaths to teens dropped back from their all-time high of 106 in 1993 to 88 in 1994. Still, they remained higher than in any previous year except 1990. Homicide and legal intervention" (death at the hands of police) accounted for all but 12 of these deaths.



♦ Child support cases filed with the D.C.Superior Court declined sharply from their all-time peak level of 2,562 in 1994 to 1,763 in 1995. Still, there were over 500 more than in 1993.



While we should be pleased that the incidence of any of the factors that harm our children has decreased, we should not be misled into assuming that it is necessarily on its way to solution. Some of these indicators are subject to substantial and random fluctuations from year to year, while others will show a consistent positive trend for a few years, then suddenly lapse into a reversal.

In some cases these fluctuations are due to the relatively small total numbers, which may cause changes to appear larger than they really are. An example of this is the indicator for the infant mortality rate. Infant mortality is measured in deaths per 1,000 births; in a city where 10,000 births occur in a year, a change of a few deaths can appear like a trend. In other cases a policy change, such as increased enforcement of child support laws, may lead to a large increase in cases brought before the courts.

Most of the problems that beset the District's children have deep roots. Only strong and consistent efforts over a period of time will have a chance of ameliorating them, much less eradicating them. We can be hopeful, but our hopes will not come to fruition unless we persist in our work to better the lives of our children.

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A. GENERAL POPULATION TRENDS AFFECTING THE DISTRICT'S CHILDREN

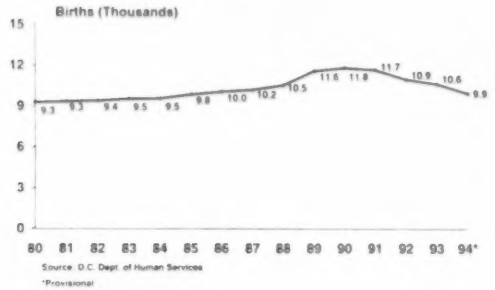
1. Births to D.C. residents have declined for the fourth year.

Births to D.C. residents have been decreasing since 1991. The 1994 statistic — 9,911 — is 16 percent below the 1990 peak. While the downward trend has been slightly irregular, it has not been interrupted by upward fluctuations.

The earlier trend had been steadily upward, with a particularly sharp upturn in 1989. That was followed by a smaller upturn in 1990, then a downturn in the next year. The 1994 number is below that of any year since 1985.

The decline in births appears to be a result, in part, of an overall decrease in fertility that is occurring nationally. Several years ago births began to increase in what some took to be another baby boom. Now, decline is taking the place of the boom, at least temporarily. Another factor in the decline of births may be the exodus from the District of families in the childbearing age range to the suburbs.

BIRTHS TO D.C. RESIDENTS
1980-1994



Source: D.C. Dept. of Human Services
*Provisional

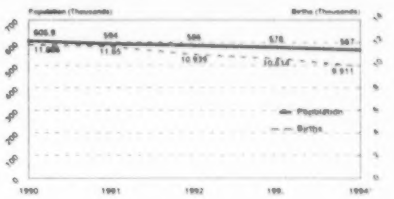
2. Births in the District are decreasing at a more rapid pace than the decline in population.

The downward trend of births has coincided with the decline in the District's general population, although births have been decreasing more rapidly. This may be occurring because families of childbearing age have been leaving the District at a faster pace than others.

With declining births, the number of problems such as infant deaths and low birth weight babies may decrease somewhat, but this does not necessarily mean the incidence of these problems relative to the total number of births is declining.

And while a smaller number of births can have its positive aspects, the people whose departure is helping to bring it about are mainly those with higher incomes, since they are better able to compete in suburban real estate markets. They are leaving behind those with more problems and less taxpaying ability, making the District's financial capacity to meet its childrens' needs even more precarious than it was before.

TREND IN BIRTHS VS POPULATION
District of Columbia, 1990-1994



Source: D.C. Dept of Human Services and U.S. Census Bureau
*Provisional

B. ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. A threat to children's well-being has now become a reality.

The "Welfare Reform Act of 1996," legislated by a Republican Congress and signed into law by a Democratic President, will effectively end AFDC, the system of guaranteed income support for the needy that has provided monthly payments to millions of American children for six decades.

In recent years this system has been severely and progressively weakened by the federal government's refusal to index the benefit levels to inflation. As a result, the monthly payments have fallen further and further behind the need, with the predictable result that health problems, crime and violence, domestic discord, and other social and physical problems that accompany severe deprivation, have grown to tragic levels. Now AFDC payments will be available for only a brief period of years, and then only under conditions that are unrealistic for many families—especially those with small children.

Over 50,000 children in the District of Columbia now derive their sole support from AFDC. What will national welfare changes mean to children in the District? The status of a waiver for the District of Columbia remains subject to negotiation at this writing. Therefore, the magnitude of it's local impact is still somewhat uncertain.

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2. Children in families receiving AFDC now exist on poverty-level incomes.

In 1994, according to data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, the median income of a family receiving public assistance in the District of Columbia was $9,606. Half of the District's families receiving AFDC received less than that. Under the Census Bureau's estimated 1995 poverty thresholds, a family of two is below the poverty level if it has an income of less than $9,935. For a family of three, the threshold is $12,156; for a family of four it is $15,570. So by definition, even a family with only one child that receives public assistance is existing below the poverty line; those with more are even further below that line. And by no means can an income below the federal poverty limits be said to provide a decent standard of living, especially in an expensive area like Washington.

Contrary to popular belief, most families receiving AFDC are not large. Census Bureau data indicate that more than three out of four have three children or less. While there are a few very large families, they are a decided exception rather than the rule.

Close to four out of five families receiving AFDC are headed by women. Under the new welfare law, children's prospects will depend on the extent to which their mothers can find gainful employment in an inner-city labor market that has long provided far too few jobs for its lower-skilled inhabitants, women or men.

3. Jobs at a living wage are very hard for welfare recipients to find in the District.

There is no shortage of jobs in the Washington Metropolitan area. In fact there are about as many jobs as people. However, many of the jobs available do not match up with the skills of District residents who are without jobs.

The few jobs available to low skilled workers generally pay no more than the minimum wage. The minimum wage, like welfare benefits, has not been indexed to inflation for many years, although the District's minimum has been somewhat more generous than that of most states. So these jobs do not pay enough to support a family. In fact, a 40-hour-a-week job at the District's $5.25 minimum wage pays under $11,000 per year, out of which must come not only food and shelter but also transportation to the job site and child care.

4. A basic premise of "welfare reform" — that welfare can be replaced with gainful work — will be very hard to achieve in the District.

Over the years there have been many efforts to redress the balance in favor of the District's lower-income residents — through job training, economic development, and programs to transport low-income workers to the suburbs where more and better-suited jobs are available. The District has been a national leader in providing child care to enable mothers to work. Although the District has been creative in efforts to assist its residents in finding employment, the imbalance between jobs and unemployed residents remains. Furthermore, people born and raised in the District are now finding it necessary to compete with newcomers from third world nations for the low-paying and low-skilled jobs that do exist.

Unless the new welfare laws can address these problems more effectively than has been done in the past, it is predictable that living conditions for the District's poor children will become even worse in the years ahead.

Welfare rules now require that parents obtain paying jobs or their benefits will cease. In virtually all big cities, the question of where parents will find the jobs remains unanswered. In a recent article, the New York Times estimated that, based on that city's current rate of job generation, it would take 21 years to create enough jobs for all its parents receiving public assistance — and that was if all jobs created in that period went to welfare recipients.

In the District of Columbia, the situation is far worse. Since 1990, the District has lost 56,000 jobs, and there are virtually no low-skilled jobs being created. Even in the suburbs there is little chance of finding low skilled jobs. In suburban Maryland, job generation is essentially static. In northern Virginia, jobs continue to be created, but most of them require technical skills. These barriers to finding and keeping low-skilled jobs are further complicated by difficulty in accessing transportation to the job site.

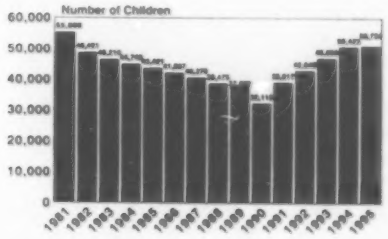
5. Children in families receiving AFDC — numbering over 50,000 in 1995 — are now about half the District's children, and their number has continued to grow.

Between 1990 and 1995, Census Bureau estimates show that the District of Columbia's total population declined by 52,900 persons — nearly nine percent. The Bureau makes no estimate of the child population.

However, assuming that the total population has continued to decline at the same rate into 1996, and that the child population has decreased at the same rate, there are now around 104,000 children in the District. Children whose families receive AFDC — who in 1995 totalled 50,734 — are nearly 49 percent of that number.

If the number of children has continued decreasing at the rate it did in the 1980s — 20 percent, far faster than the adult population — then the District now has less than 100,000 children remaining, and children on AFDC are at least 51 percent of the total.

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN
Washington, D.C. 1981 - 1995



Source: D.C. Income Maintenance Administration

6. Among the parents of most of D.C.'s young children, about three in ten are unemployed.

An analysis by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics of labor force data for the District in 1993 showed a staggering fact — that among young African-American adults of both sexes, aged between 20 and 24, the unemployment rate was 28.4 percent. That was more than three times the 8.5 percent for the District's total population, which in turn was considerably above the U.S. rate.

While no breakdown by sex was available, the unemployment rate for young Black men usually is considerably higher than for Black women of the same age. Therefore, possibly as many as 40 percent or more of young Black men in the District could be unemployed.

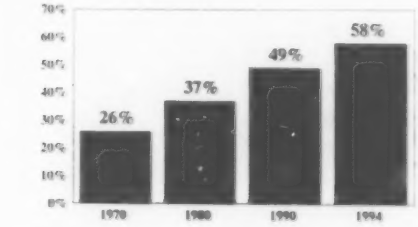
These statistics go a long way toward explaining why a growing percentage of women are now raising their children without the help of the fathers. If a major part of the father's role in the family is perceived to be to provide financial support, and the father cannot find employment to fill that role, then he is regarded as having no role in the family. That, tragically, is the situation of many young African-American men in the District today, and their children are the ultimate victims.

C. FAMILY ATTACHMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. Nearly six D.C. children in ten are now growing up in homes where the father is missing.

The percentage of D.C. children whose fathers are not present in the home has risen steadily over the past quarter-century. In 1970 it was 26 percent; by 1980 it had risen to 37 percent; in 1990 it was approaching the halfway mark at 49 percent; and by 1994 it had reached an alarming 58 percent, and this figure does not represent the whole picture. Approximately another five percent of children are living with their father only; included among those without a father present are about six percent for whom neither parent is present and who are being raised by someone else —often a grandparent, aunt, or other relative. Only about 37 percent of District children are now growing up with both parents in the home.

PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN HOMES WITH MISSING FATHERS
District of Columbia, 1970-1994



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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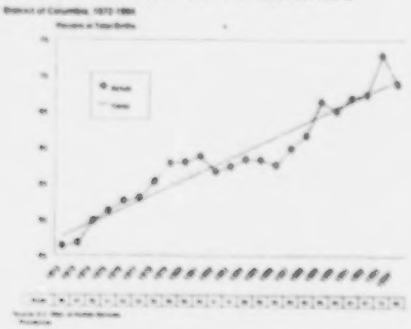
2. Births to single mothers have fallen sharply over last year, but the trend continues upward.

Nearly 69 percent of all children born in the District in 1994 were to unwed mothers. This is a drop of four percentage points from 1993. Although this figure represents the greatest drop in this indicator since 1972, the trendline remains firmly upward as indicated in the following chart.

TREND IN PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO SINGLE MOTHERS

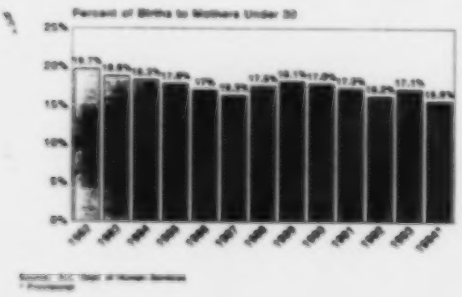


Perhaps last year's value, which was just under 73 percent, was an aberration. Although not as large, previous drops in this indicator since 1972 have consistently been followed by a resumption of the upward trend. While the most recent change is encouraging, at least one more year of downward movement is necessary before progress is clearly evident.

3. Births to teenage mothers have declined to the lowest level since 1992.

In 1994, 15.6 percent of all babies born in the District were to mothers still not out of their teens. This indicator is one measure of child well-being that appears currently to be in a downtrend.

TREND IN BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS
District of Columbia, 1982-1994



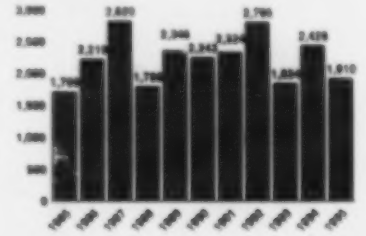
The level of teen births declined steadily from 1982 to 1987, then jumped sharply about the time that the drug problem in the District became abruptly worse with the arrival of crack cocaine. After two upward years, however, the downward trend resumed in the 1990s.

In 1993 births to teens increased once more, but then turned downward sharply again in 1994. Although the general down trend is encouraging, 15.6 percent still translates to nearly one baby in six born to a teenage mother.

4. Paternity Cases Have Declined Sharply, but Large Fluctuations are Common

While paternity cases filed with the D.C. Courts decreased in 1995, they remained above the 1993 level. The 1,910 cases registered in 1995 were higher than in several previous years. Wide fluctuations in this number are the norm, sometimes exceeding 50 percent from one year to the next. No trend is evident here.

CASES FILED FOR PATERNITY ANNUALLY
D.C. Superior Court, 1985 - 1995



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports (1985-1995)

5. Child support cases have dropped, but still are at the second highest level ever recorded

Cases filed for child support with the D.C. Court dropped by 31 percent in 1995, but the 1,763 cases were still the second largest number on record. Since 1990, the child support caseload has exceeded 1,000 every year — more than double the number in any year prior to 1990.

Economic distress in the District is a probable cause for the high number of child support cases. Recently the District's unemployment level has been more than twice the suburban rate, and the large number of young African-American males without jobs is doubtless a major factor. In 1994 and 1995, the caseload escalated even further due to a new emphasis on prosecution of support cases which has encouraged more mothers to sue. Although more cases have been filed, if the father has no job there is little reason to hope that meaningful support will be forthcoming, whatever the outcome of the suit.

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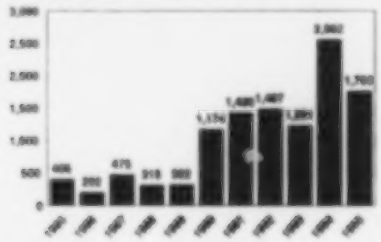
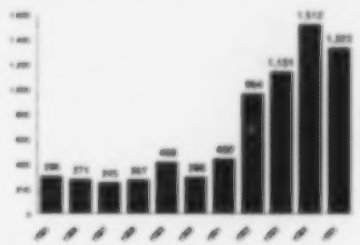
CASES FILED FOR CHILD SUPPORT ANNUALLY

D.C. Superior Court, 1985 - 1995



CHILD NEGLECT CASES FILED ANNUALLY

D.C. Superior Court, 1985 - 1995



6. Child neglect cases were down by nearly 13 percent in 1995, but were still at their second highest level since 1985.

A total of 1,323 child neglect cases were filed with the D.C. Superior Court in 1995. That is 12.5 percent fewer than in 1994, but still 17 percent over the 1993 number. Child neglect cases began to escalate in 1991, and since then each year's total has been higher than in any year prior to 1991.

A connection can be made between the increase in child neglect cases and the severely depressed state of the District's economy and the lack of jobs for so many of its residents. In many cases, low-skilled and low-paying jobs do not provide families with the resources necessary for adequate child care, leaving parents with the choice between employment or leaving children unattended while at work. Also, unemployment and financial hardship are breeding grounds for social and personal problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, overcrowded living situations, and psychological distress — all of which may be factors in child neglect cases.

D. CHILD DAY CARE

In the past year, the District has lost about 100 child care providers. This is a blow to a city which has long had an exceptional record in this regard, and is particularly serious in light of the new welfare legislation and its implications for working mothers.

In part, the reductions have been the result of cuts in federal spending. But in part they have also resulted from District Government actions. One has been the imposition of a requirement for a certificate of occupancy for home-based businesses, which has been interpreted to apply to families who care for children in their homes.

The certificate costs $50, but that is not the major problem. Many of these families rent their dwellings, and once the child care activity is called to the attention of the landlord, they are often forbidden to continue for fear of losing their homes.

E. HOMELESS CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Community Partnership reports that approximately 485 families with children are in shelter at any given time, approximately 215 of whom live in emergency apartments funded by the D.C. Initiative.

Approximately 990 families were homeless during FY 1995. These 990 families include 2984 children, an average of 2 children per family.

As of September 1996, there were approximately 500 families on the waiting list for shelter.

F. HEALTH

1. The percentage of low birth weights has declined.

Child health professionals watch this indicator closely because an infant's weight at birth has great bearing on its future health prospects. Newborns weighing less than 5 1/2 pounds are more likely to die in their first year. Those who survive often face continuing health and developmental problems. Low birth weights were down in 1994 to 14.2 percent (or 1 in 7 births), compared to 14.7 percent in 1993.

TREND IN PERCENT OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS

District of Columbia, 1982-1994

Source: D.C. Dept. of Human Services

2. Although the adequacy of prenatal care has shown a marginal improvement, fewer than half of D.C. mothers receive care that is defined as "adequate."

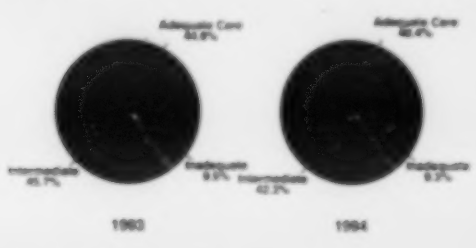
In 1994, 48.4 percent of mothers living in the District received prenatal care that was judged "adequate" (defined as the mother receiving her first prenatal visit no more than 15 weeks after the onset of pregnancy, and at least 10 visits during the pregnancy). That is up from 44.5 percent in 1993, but still is less than half of D.C.'s new mothers.

This indicator has impact on several other indicators described in this report. Therefore, if the number of mothers who receive adequate prenatal care continues to increase, it will be reflected in the improvement of indicators concerning child health and infant mortality.

ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE FOR D.C. MOTHERS

(Percent of Mothers)

1993 and 1994



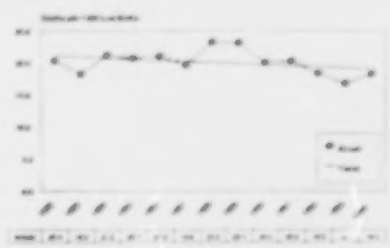
Source: D.C. Dept of Human Services

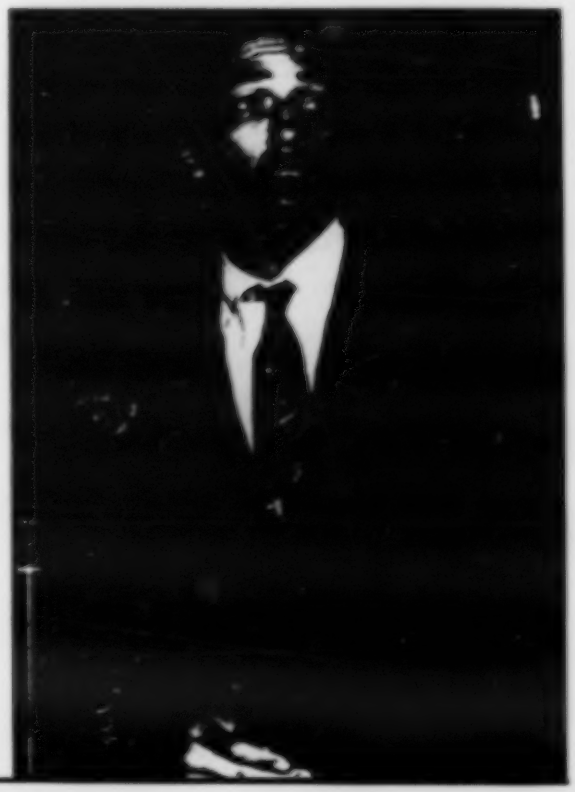
3. The infant mortality rate increased in 1994, but the long-term trend appears to be slightly downward.

The rate of infant deaths increased from 16.7 per thousand in 1993 to 18.2 per thousand in 1994 — the second lowest rate since 1982, when the level was also 18.2. This figure represents more than double the infant mortality rate for the nation as a whole. The trend for D.C. now appears to be moving downward, but the substantial fluctuations from year to year make it difficult to anticipate what will happen in the years ahead. Much will depend on progress in improving the adequacy of prenatal care.

TREND IN INFANT DEATH RATE

District of Columbia, 1982-1994





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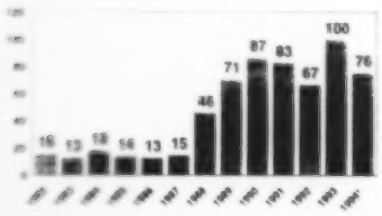
G. SAFETY AND PERSONAL SECURITY

1. Violent deaths to teens declined in 1994 from their 1993 peak, but remain close to previous high levels.

In 1993, 106 teenagers aged 15 to 19 died violent deaths. That was 17 more than the previous high of 89 reached in 1990. In 1994 the number dropped to 88 — more than three times as high as in 1987. Between the years of 1982 to 1987, the highest number of violent deaths in any one year had been 34. So while the 1994 level is certainly an improvement over 1993, it is still far higher than in years prior to 1988.

DEATHS TO TEENS AGES 15 TO 19
BY HOMICIDE AND LEGAL INTERVENTION
District of Columbia, 1982 to 1994



Source: D.C. Dept. of Human Services
*Provisional

2. Murder is now the leading cause of death for D.C. teens dying violently.

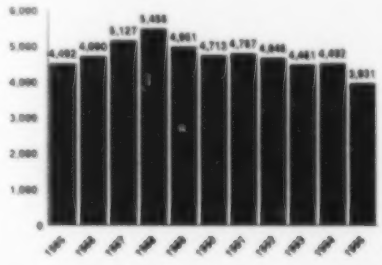
In 1994, 76 of the 88 District of Columbia teens who suffered violent deaths were victims of homicide or "legal intervention" — i.e., death at the hands of police. As with teen violent deaths of all kinds, homicide victims in this age group declined to 76 in 1994 from 100 in 1993.

In 1993, only six teen violent deaths occurred through causes other than homicide, i.e. through accident or suicide. Although the 1994 number is an improvement, still all but 12 of the 88 teens who died violently were murdered.

3. Juvenile cases in D.C. Superior Court have reached an 11-Year low.

Juvenile cases peaked in 1988 and have since declined irregularly. In 1995, there were 3,931 cases filed against juveniles in the D.C. Superior Court. That was 12 percent below the lowest previous number in the 11 years for which we have statistics.

JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C SUPERIOR COURT
For All Causes, 1985 - 1995



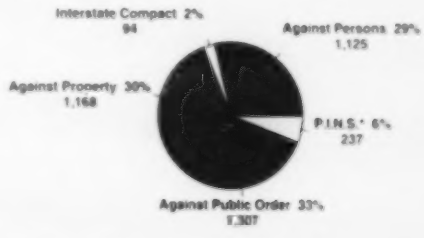
Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports (1985-1995)

4. "Acts Against Public Order" are the most frequent crimes of which juveniles are accused. However, crimes against people and property are almost equally common.

In 1995, 33 percent of the crimes which brought juvenile defendants into contact with the D.C. Superior Court were classified as "Acts Against Public Order," usually offenses involving drugs and/or weapons.

Property crimes were nearly as common at 30 percent of the total, and crimes against persons constituted 29 percent of the total juvenile offenses. These percentages were little changed from 1994. "Persons in Need of Supervision" (P.I.N.S.), generally youngsters who are out of parental control, made up six percent of the total in both years.

JUVENILE NEW REFERRALS BY TYPE OF ACT
D.C. Superior Court, 1995



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Report (1995)
* Persons In Need of Supervision

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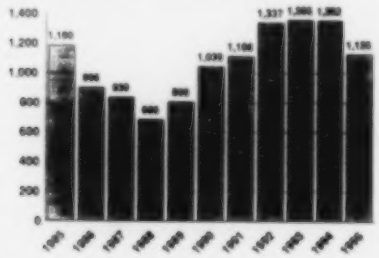
5. Juvenile crimes against persons were down in 1995 by 17 percent, the first drop since 1988.

The 1,125 juvenile cases referred to D.C. Superior Court for offenses against persons were the lowest number since 1991, and marked the first significant decrease in seven years. Acts against persons include assaults, homicides, rapes and robberies. They had decreased from 1985 through 1988, then escalated rapidly from 1989 to 1992, after which they remained essentially unchanged through 1994.

JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO D.C SUPERIOR COURT
For Offenses Against Persons, 1985-1995



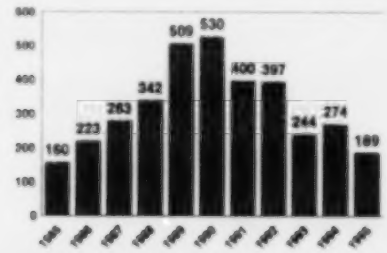
Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports, 1985-1995

6. Child abuse cases have been declining since 1990.

Cases filed for child abuse with the District of Columbia courts have declined markedly in the past five years, and now stand at only about 36 percent as many as in 1990. Prior to that they had been increasing steadily and rapidly. In 1995 there were 189 filings, almost as few as in 1985.

The reasons are not clear, and the recent decline is surprising in view of the fact that neglect cases have been increasing. The decreasing number of children living in the District may play some part but probably a minor one.

CHILD ABUSE CASES FILED ANNUALLY
D.C. Superior Court, 1985 - 1995



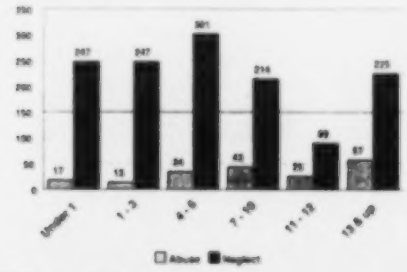
Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Reports (1985-1995)

7. The most frequent victims of abuse and neglect are children under one year.

The number of children under one year of age who were involved in cases of neglect in 1995 was 247. The number of cases for children aged 1 to 3 was the same — 247. Only the 4 to 6 age category reported a higher number at 301 cases. Since all age categories other than the youngest group spanned three or more years, the number in the "under 1 year" category was far higher than in any other on a per-year-of-age basis.

Although the total number of abuse cases is much smaller, the number of abuse cases for children under one year of age is also higher than for any other age group when the span of years involved is taken into account. Thus the children who are most vulnerable are the ones at greatest risk.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REFERRALS BY AGE OF CHILD
D.C. Superior Court, 1995



Source: District of Columbia Courts, Annual Report (1995)

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H. EDUCATION

Again this year, the D.C. Public Schools have been unable to make significant progress toward their announced goals of:

1. Achieving test scores in reading and math at least as high as the 50th percentile (the national norm) at the secondary level;

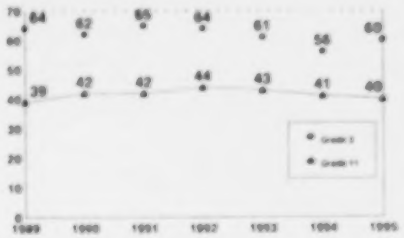
2. Attendance exceeding 92 percent in grades 7 through 12.

3. A graduation rate exceeding 80 percent.

These goals, set in 1989 by the Board of Education, were supposed to be achieved by 1994. Although they may have been unrealistically high, what is remarkable is that the school system is farther from most of these goals now than it was at the start.

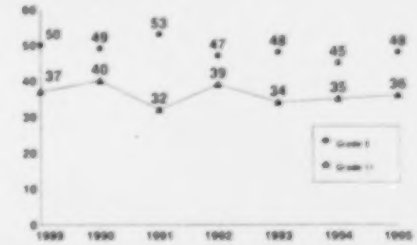
Recently the schools have set up a new set of performance targets and selected indicators of achievement. No data were available on performance by these indicators as this report was written.

D.C.P.S. Median Percentile Scores in Math
May 1989-May 1995
Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills



Source: D.C. Committee on Public Education

D.C.P.S. Median Percentile Scores in Reading
May 1989-May 1995
Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills



Source: D.C. Committee on Public Education

1. In six years, 11th grade students have advanced only one percentage point in math and have dropped one point in reading.

In 1989, 11th grade students scored at the 37th percentile in reading. By 1995 they were at the 36th percentile. In between, their performance had sometimes improved and sometimes worsened, but never got closer than 10 points from the goal.

In math, the 11th graders seemed to be making progress in the first several years, advancing from the 39th percentile in 1989 to the 44th in 1992. In recent years the trend reversed, with 11th grade students at the 40th percentile by 1995.

The Spring 1996 achievement scores were recently released to the media. A Washington Post story indicated that they showed declines in most categories, but gave few details. We have been unable to obtain the scores at this writing.

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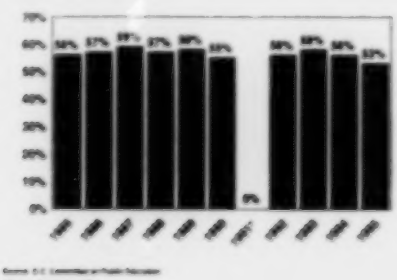
2. The reported attendance rate for junior high schoolers has improved marginally, but that of high schoolers has deteriorated. Neither has reached the goal.

In the year following announcement of the goals, the reported attendance for both the junior and senior high levels shot up by three percentage points to 89 percent. Since then the junior highs have made no further progress, while the senior highs are below their starting point at 85 percent.

GRADUATION RATE FOR CLASSES OF 1985 TO 1995
D.C. Public Schools



3. The graduation rate has slipped by three percentage points since 1989, and is a full 27 points below the goal.

At 53 percent, compared to 56 percent in 1989, the schools are graduating fewer students, not more.

4. In both math and reading, DCPS students are at or above the national norm in 3rd grade. They slip far below this level by 11th grade.

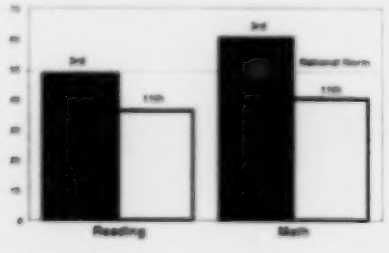
The comparative 3rd and 11th grade scores for 1995 are consistent with those of past years. They show that the longer students stay in the D.C. Public Schools, the more poorly they perform. Students start out in third grade with normal or above-normal performance, and deteriorate thereafter. Moreover, even third graders' performance has been slipping slightly.

5. In per-pupil expenditures, the D.C. Public Schools tops almost every other large school system in the nation.

A recent report by the U.S. Department of Education, based on 1993 data, showed that the District was second among the 100 largest U.S. school systems in expenditures per pupil. The highest was Newark, New Jersey, which was recently taken over by the New Jersey state government after years of scandalously poor performance.

Since 1993, the District has reduced its spending under pressure of severe budget cutbacks.

SCORES ON COMPREHENSIVE TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS (CTBS) IN THIRD AND ELEVENTH GRADES
D.C. Public Schools, 1995



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I. COMPARING THE WARDS

1. Births to Single Mothers.

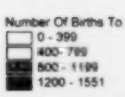
Ward 8 had the largest number of births to single mothers in 1994 — 1,551 births or 23 percent of all such births in the District. Fully 83 percent of all births in Ward 8 were to single women. Ward 7 was in second place with 1,132 births, also 83 percent of all births in that ward. In seven of the District's eight wards, 62 percent or more of all births were to unmarried women. The sole exception was Ward 3, with nine percent.

However, the percent of births that were to single women was lower in 1994 than in the previous year in every ward without exception.

BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS by Ward
District of Columbia, 1994

Ward	Number	Percent*
1	910	66
2	610	62
3	62	9
4	720	63
5	995	77
6	847	72
7	1,132	83
8	1,551	83
Total	6,827	69

* of all births in ward
Source: D.C. Dept. of Human Services



2. Births to Single Teenage Mothers.

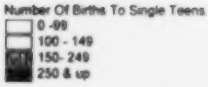
Ward 7 led the District in the percentage of its births that were to single teenagers in 1994 — 20 percent, or 273. However, Ward 8 had the highest number of births to unmarried teens, 341 or 23 percent of all teen births in the District.

In all wards but two, 14 percent or more of births were to single teens. The exceptions were Ward 3, with one percent, and Ward 4, with 12 percent.

BIRTHS TO SINGLE TEENS by Ward
District of Columbia, 1994

Ward	Number	Percent*
1	187	14
2	137	14
3	6	1
4	139	12
5	218	17
6	199	17
7	273	20
8	341	18
Total	1,500	15

* of all births in ward
Source: D.C. Dept. of Human Services



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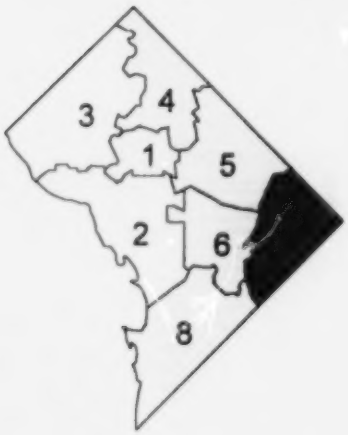
3. Infant Mortality Rate.

The infant mortality rate in 1994 was highest in Ward 7 — 27.2 deaths within the first year per 1,000 live births. Ward 8 came in second with 22 infant deaths per 1,000. Seven of the eight wards had rates above 10 per thousand, meaning that more than one perent of all babies born in these wards died before they were one year old.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE* by Ward
District of Columbia, 1994

Ward	Rate*
1	13.0
2	11.1
3	7.0
4	16.7
5	20.2
6	19.4
7	27.2
8	22.0
Total	18.2

* deaths per 1,000 live births
Source: D.C. Dept. of Human Services



Infant Mortality Rate By Ward
0 % - 9 %
10% - 14 %
15% - 24%
25% & up

4. Less than Adequate Prenatal Care.

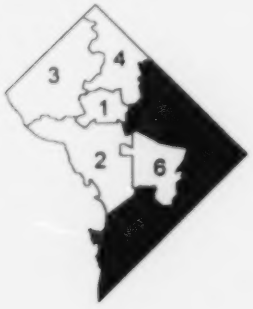
If a mother had her first prenatal visit within 15 weeks after she became pregnant, and had at least 10 visits during that pregnancy, she is judged to have received "adequate" prenatal care.

In only two of the District's eight wards did more than half of mothers receive adequate care by that definition. They were Ward 3, where care was judged inadequate in 15.8 percent of births, and Ward 4, where the percentage was 47.6. In all other wards care was considered inadequate in 51 percent or more of of all births. The highest percentage, nearly 59 percent, occurred in Ward 7, but two more wards, 5 and 8, were close behind with over 57 percent.

LESS THAN ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE by Ward
District of Columbia, 1994

Ward	Percent*
1	53.5
2	51.9
3	15.8
4	47.6
5	57.5
6	50.8
7	58.9
8	57.5
Total	48.4

* of all births in ward
Source: D.C. Dept. of Human Services



Percent Inadequate Prenatal Care
0 % - 24 %
25 % - 49 %
50 % - 54 %
55 % & up

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Since the fall of 1990, through a series of reviews of models and best practices, retreats, and meetings, members and supporters of the D.C. KIDS COUNT Collaborative for Children and Families have been examining ways to improve outcomes for the city's children. In our last report we made several recommendations that we believe are still relevant and should be seriously considered by the Government of the District of Columbia and citizens at large. They include:

- The establishment of a Children's Budget to help ensure that the needs of children and families are met. This special budget would specify policy and program goals and benchmarks for children and families and would include impact statements that outline how budget proposals would affect the well-being of children.

- The initiation of a community-wide process of dialogue and action aimed at reconnecting children, fathers and families. We are encouraged by the progress of the D.C. Agenda Project and their efforts to address complex issues with a community-wide, strategic process that's aimed at getting to the heart of issues that are stifling the well-being of our children. We believe that this process should be embraced and supported by all facets of our community.

- Utilize technology for information dissemination and communication between and among the public and private sectors as a tool for individual and community empowerment. We encourage District residents to use technology for community empowerment.

- Broaden advocacy activities to include full involvement and participation of youth. The Collaborative will provide guidance and mentoring to participants of Young Urban Voices (YUV) of D.C. KIDS COUNT. YUV learns about community building and civic responsiblity and will serve as change agents among their peers. We encourage city-wide involvement and support of this youth advocacy initiative.

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III. A WORD ABOUT THE DATA

The indicators used in this report are selected by the KIDS COUNT Collaborative with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and cooperating Data and Program Managers within the District of Columbia Government and activists in private agencies. The indicators must meet the following criteria: (1) be reliable from year to year, (2) reflect a broad view of the lives of children, (3) be outcome based rather than program-oriented, (4) be available wherever possible by wards, and preferably also by census tracts.

The data was collected and analyzed by the Collaborative. The Collaborative relies mainly upon data from agencies of the District of Columbia and the federal government. These sources are the final authority with regard to the quality of the data they provide.

Every effort has been made to report the most current and accurate data available for the selected indicators. Most are for 1994 and 1995, and some are provisional at this time. It should be pointed out that there is no uniform standard for data collection and reporting across agencies within the D.C. Government. There are variations in the availability of ward and census tract data as well as in the currency of data by agency. There is a need for more data at the neighborhood or small area level.

Data Definitions and Sources (in alphabetical order)

We attempt to furnish adequate definitions of our data in the text, and to indicate sources in all tables and charts. However, in case some are not clear, the definitions and sources of our data are as follows:

AFDC Payments. We report the annual average number of children covered by AFDC payments. The source is the Commission on Social Services, Income Maintenance Administration, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Babies Born Without Adequate Prenatal Care. The annual number and/or percent of infants born to mothers who received no prenatal care at all, who had their first prenatal care visit more than 15 weeks after the onset of pregnancy, or who had less than ten visits during the pregnancy. Our source is the Research and Statistics Division, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Births to Single Mothers. The annual number and/or percent of births that occur to mothers who do not report themselves as married. The source is the Research and Statistics Division, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Births to Teenage Mothers. The annual number and/or percent of births that are to women or girls under age 20. Because 97 percent of teenage mothers bearing children in the District are unmarried, we do not report a rate for single teens separately. Our source is the Research and Statistics Division, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. We report the annual number of new cases alleging child abuse or neglect filed with the D.C. Superior Court. The source is the Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts.

Child Support Cases. We report the annual number of new cases filed for child support in the District of Columbia. The source is the Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts.

Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills. We report the annual (May) results for these test as recorded for children in the third and eleventh grades. Our source is the D.C. Committee on Public Education (COPE).

Graduation Rate. We report the percentage of the number of students enrolled in 10th grade who graduate three years later. Our source is the D.C. Committee on Public Education.

HIV-Positive Rate. The percent of persons testing positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. We report the annual rate recorded for teenagers seen at the Burgess Clinic of Children's National Medical Center. These are anonymous. The source is Children's National Medical Center.

Homeless Children and Families are those who do not have a home in which they can live, either their own or a friend or relatives. They may be housed in shelters or in transitional housing, or may totally without shelter. Our data was supplied by the Community Partnership.

Infant Mortality Rate is the number of deaths to infant under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. The source is the Research and Statistics Division, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Juvenile Cases. The annual number of new cases filed against juveniles in the D.C. Superior Court. The source is the Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts.

Licensed Child Care Facilities. We report the annual number of licensed facilities as furnished to us by the Office of Early Childhood Development Commission on Social Services, D.C. Department of Human Services.
Low Birth weight Babies. We report the annual number and percent age of infants born at abnormally low birth weights (under 5.5 pounds or 2500 grams). The source is

the Research and Statistics Division, D.C. Department of Human Services.

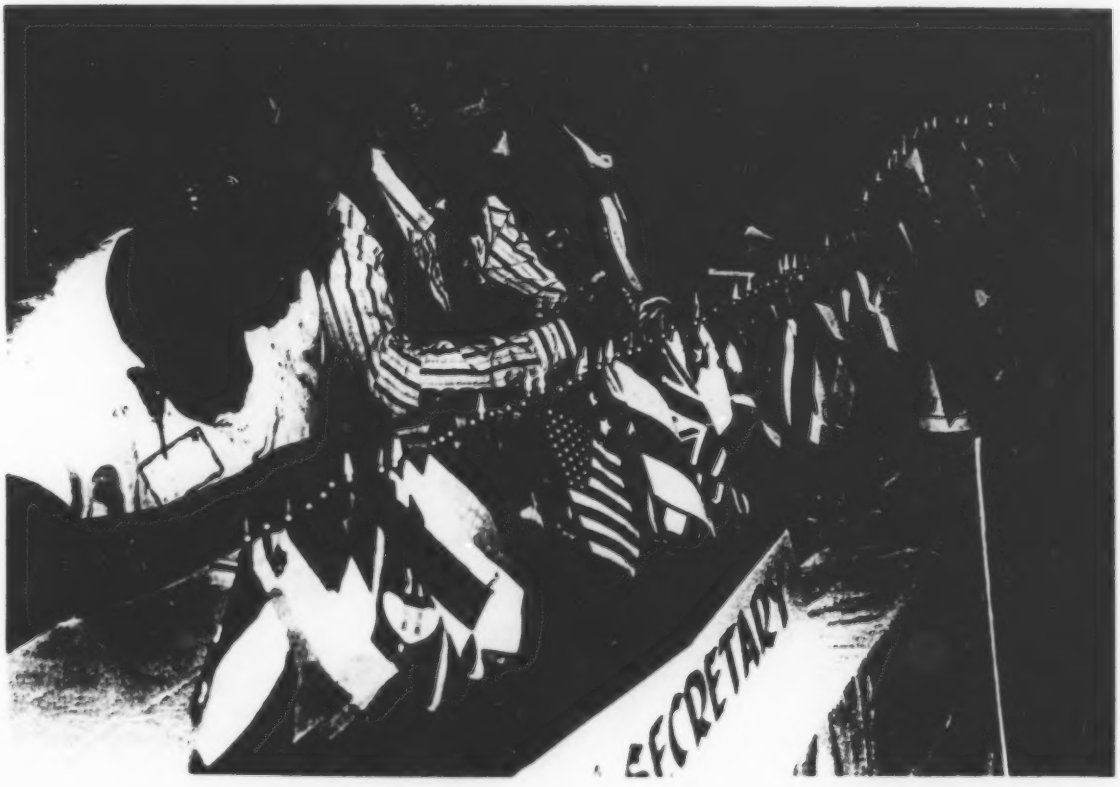
Paternity Cases. We report the annual number of new cases alleging paternity filed with the D.C. Superior Court. The source is the Annual Reports of the District of Columbia Courts.

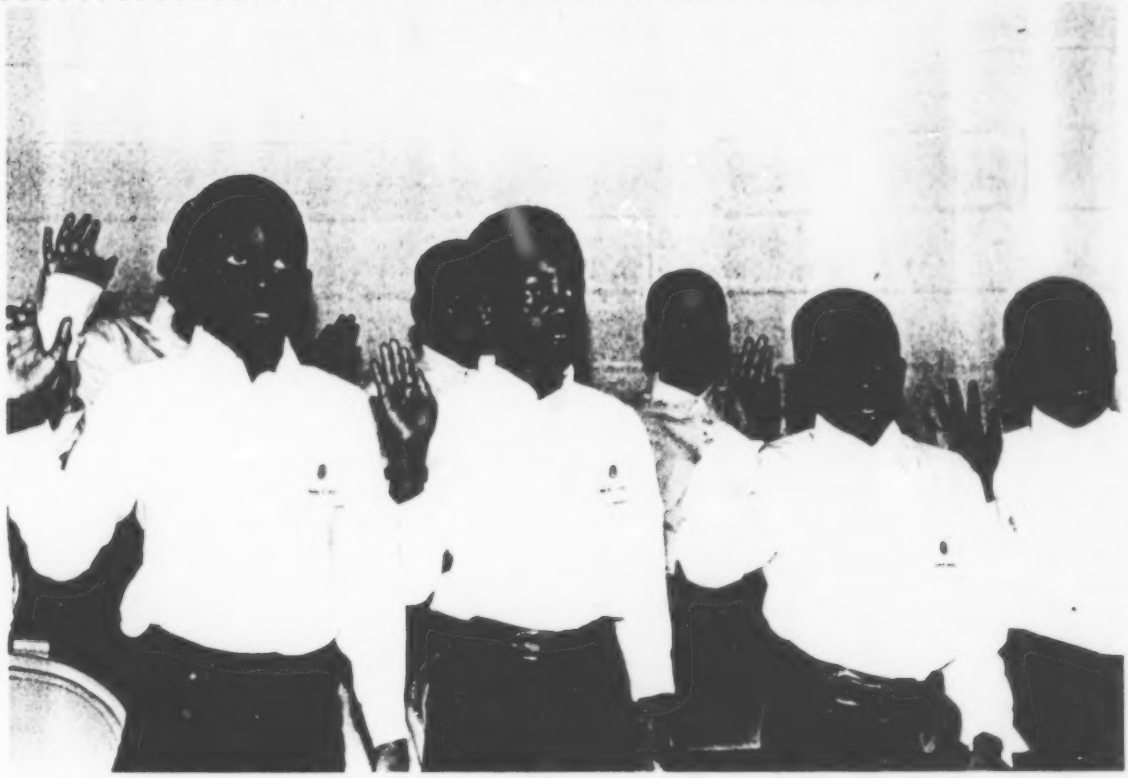
Poverty Rate. The percent of persons in household with incomes under the federal poverty threshold, which varies with size of family and is adjusted annually in accord with changes in the Consumer Price Index. In 1990, the threshold for a three person family was $9,885; in 1995, it is $12.590. Our source for the 1990 figures is the 1990 Census of Population, STF-3 data. For years subsequent to 1990, it is the Census Bureau's's Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P-60.

School Attendance Rate. We report the annual attendance rate (the percent of students enrolled who are actually present) in the D.C. Public Schools. Our source is the D.C. Committee on Public Education.

Teen Violent Deaths. We report the annual number of violent deaths to person age 15 to 19, as also reported in the Kids Count national data book. Since the District of Columbia has been losing population rapidly, and the loss has been especially heavy among families with children, we do not presently have what we regard as a good estimate of the teenage population of the District. Hence, we do not attempt to report a rate. Our data comes from the Research and Statistics Division, D.C. Department of Human Services.

Unemployment Rate. The percent of persons who are in the labor force (i.e., either with a job or looking for work) and who are unemployed as of a specific date. The source is the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, unpublished data, furnished the Labor Market Information and Research Staff, D.C. Department of Employment Services.





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